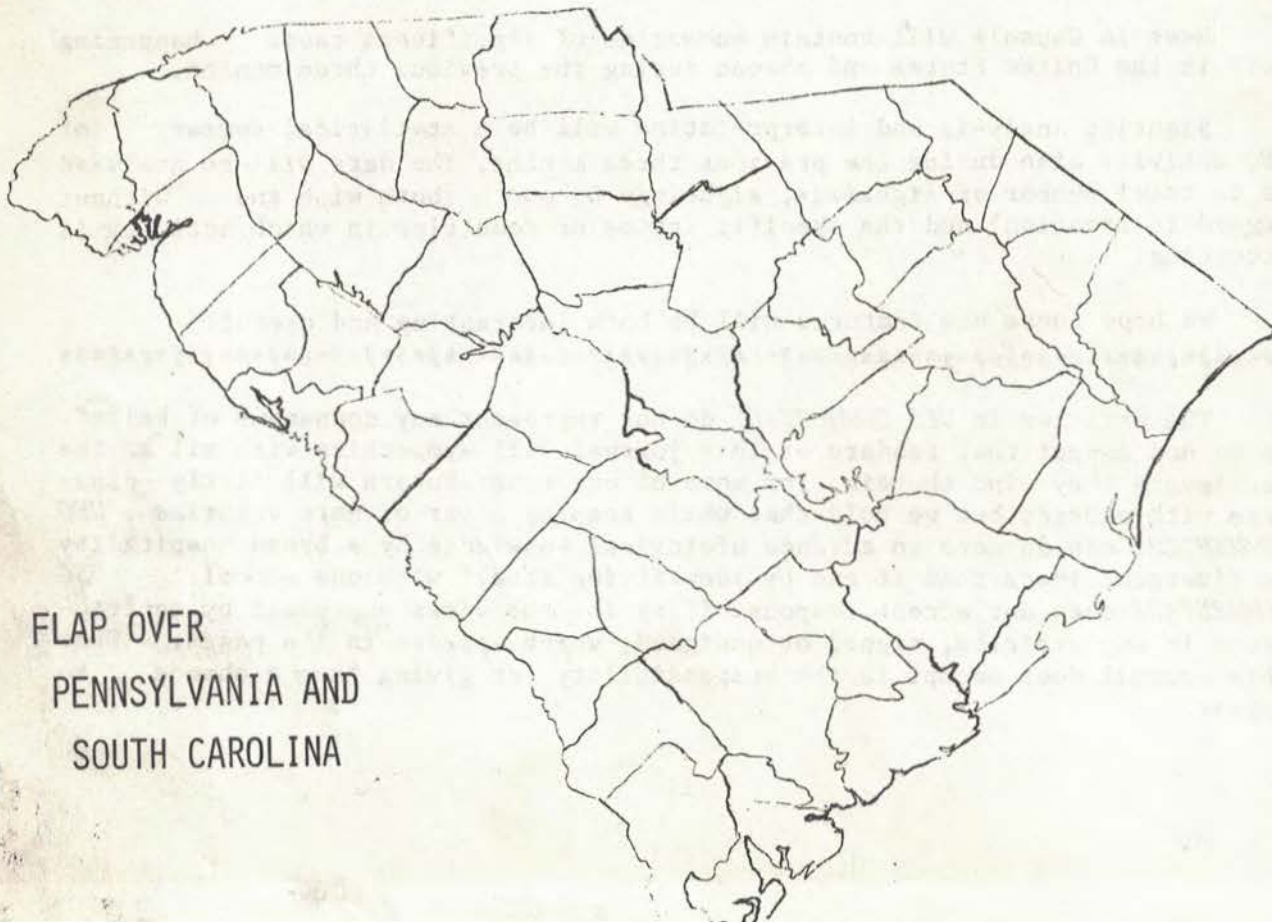
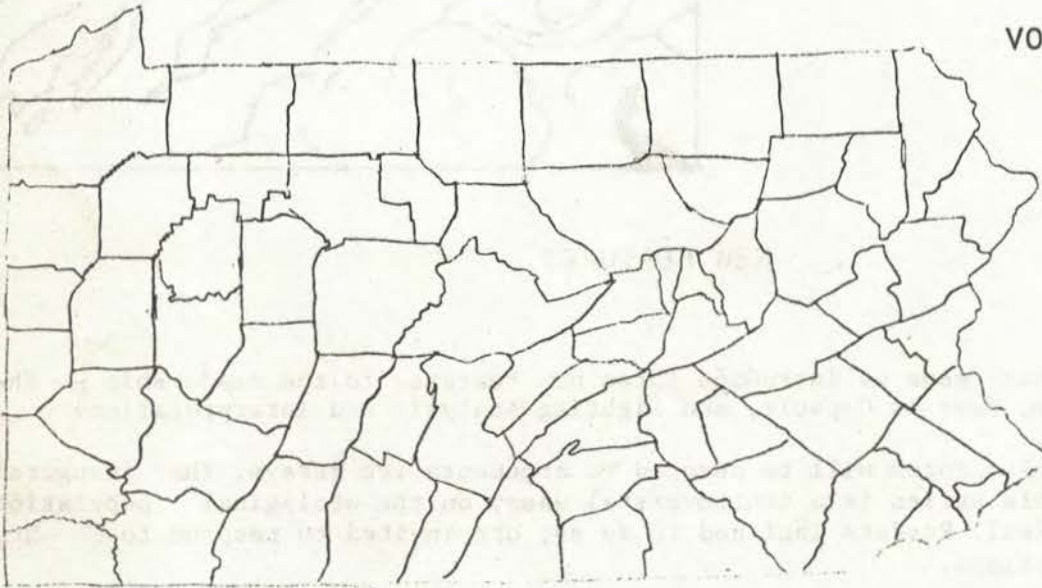


# UFO COMMENTARY

A Journal of Progressive UFOlogy

VOL.3 NO.3

SPRING 1973



FLAP OVER  
PENNSYLVANIA AND  
SOUTH CAROLINA

COGITO



### NEW FEATURES

With this issue we introduce three new features to the readership -- The Public Forum, News in Capsule, and Sighting Analysis and Interpretation.

The Public Forum will be devoted to argumentative essays. The inaugural piece for this series is a controversial essay on the ufological population by John A. Keel. Readers inclined to do so, are invited to respond to Mr. Keel's assertions.

News in Capsule will contain summaries of significant cases happening both in the United States and abroad during the previous three months.

Sighting Analysis and Interpretation will be a statistical summary of UFO activity also during the previous three months. The data will be analyzed as to total number of sightings, sightings by month (both with and without regard to location) and the specific states or countries in which activity is occurring.

We hope these new features will be both interesting and useful.

\*\*\*\*\*

The articles in *UFO COMMENTARY* do not represent any consensus of belief. We do not expect that readers of this journal will sympathize with all of the sentiments they find therein, for some of our contributors will flatly disagree with others; but we hold that while keeping clear of mere vagaries *UFO COMMENTARY* can do more to advance ufological knowledge by a broad hospitality to divergent ideas than it can by identifying itself with one school. *UFO COMMENTARY* does not accept responsibility for the views expressed by contributors in any articles, signed or unsigned, which appears in its pages. What this journal does accept is the responsibility for giving them a chance to appear.

# UFO

# COMMENTARY

*A Journal of Progressive Ufology*

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COVER: A. Benz

Correspondence: Send *all* correspondence to the *Editor*

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# TECHNIQUES OF INVESTIGATION

## THE UFO LANDING SITE - II

Sharon K. Lynch, M.S.

Niel Lynch

In order to formulate a logical course of action, the first investigator to the scene should immediately assess the situation. How long has it been since the event? How large an area is involved? Has it been disturbed by sightseers, reporters, police, other investigators, etc.? Are there any witnesses? What are the obvious features of the scene?

Because of the non-official status of most UFO investigators, it is important to determine whose property is involved and whether or not permission can be obtained for proceeding with an investigation. Also, if there are other persons there desiring to make an investigation, some agreement should be made as to a coordinated approach. Much valuable evidence can be lost or destroyed by uncoordinated groups of persons inspecting a scene. There is also the problem of rivalry or jealousy where one might secretly take or destroy evidence to hamper the efforts of another. Additionally, there is the problem of hoaxers posing as investigators.

If at all possible, the serious ufologist will have done some public relations work on the local officials and will have come to an agreement with other interested parties, including other organizations having a direct or tangential interest in UFO research, no matter how unscientific their approach. It is much easier to do this well in advance than it is to fight off a dozen half-"stoned" hippies who are trampling over a landing site looking for some sort of occult "vibrations."

Also, this type of investigation should be as unobtrusive as possible. Leave the sirens, flashing lights, flares and bullhorns to the police, and don't make a UFO landing site look like an airliner crash scene. If you have to get several investigators together, *DO NOT USE CITIZENS BAND RADIO!!* or you will have more people than you know how to contend with down upon you in minutes. The same goes for partyline telephones. Arrange a code word system for informing your people, if you live in an area full of amateur detectives and disaster sightseers. If you get them anyway, rope off a path for them to follow and let them walk in and take a look. If the word has gotten around, it will be very hard to keep them out entirely, so it is better to designate someone to run guided tours through a safe area and to explain a bit about

... continued

comfortable for him to use & with which he is familiar. Many, many times in an exciting situation a photographer has forgotten some important adjustment on a new or unfamiliar camera and lost the shots. The type of camera is not as important as it might seem, as long as it is of good quality. Some photographers prefer 35mm while others find a larger format more suitable. Simple "box cameras" should be avoided, unless nothing else is available.

Photographs should be taken as soon as possible upon arrival at the scene since things like tracks in the dew or bent blades of grass may disappear in a short time. It would also be of interest to take pictures later in the day to see if changing the angle of the light reveals any new features.

Incidents occurring at night should be photographed at night as well as the next morning. Either flash or flood lamps might be used and there are a variety of approaches which we will discuss later under the general heading of Photography. Investigators who plan to do much photography of sites might be quite interested in two Kodak publications: *Basic police photography* (publication #M-7) and *Infrared and ultraviolet photography* (publication #M-3). The former deals with evidence photography and also discusses equipment and facilities, courtroom presentation and the like. The booklet also has a number of timely warnings against common pitfalls, including legal, mechanical and psychological factors. Both of these are available from photo dealers and cost around \$1.50 each.

Along with recording visual information, the investigators, especially the first ones on the scene, should be aware of other sensory phenomena such as unusual odors and sounds, as well as apparently sudden changes in feeling or mood. The latter, of course, are subjective, but some research has shown a link between positive and negative ions in the air and mood. Other research has shown some similar links to ultrasound.

If there are any witnesses, someone should keep them apart. It seems to be a fact of human nature that when witnesses start comparing notes, their stories begin evolving into something bigger and more important and even scrupulously honest people will tend to exaggerate a bit and remember additional details inaccurately.

It is also entirely possible for a witness to make gross errors in good faith, and there is no reliable method for testing the credibility of testimony. Several books have been written on human testimony and most books on modern investigation methods devote quite a bit of space to the subject, as well. In general, eyewitness testimony is considered one of the *least* reliable forms of evidence.

... continued

what is happening. This will also serve to give the public a better image of your organization and to counter some of the false popular impressions of "flying saucer nuts." On private property, of course, with the permission of the landowner, you may try to keep such persons out, thus, it would be very wise to spend some time learning the names of the owners of any large tracts of land in your area, especially wilderness areas where the owner does not live near the property.

The subject of co-ordination is not confined to other investigators and pseudo-investigators, but also to one's own people. Even if your team consisted of nothing but PhD's from a local university, unless they have had special experience in investigation, you might find your geologist stepping on things of great interest to your botanist, who might very well be sitting on something of extreme interest to your metallurgist and so on.

The first investigator on the scene should secure the site. All parts of interest should be roped off or otherwise designated, and if necessary, guards stationed. Even if the site is in a very remote area, this is advisable to prevent a hiker or other stranger from blundering in, and to mark the site in case some of your own people arrive late. If you are expecting others to arrive, it would be well to designate a safe route of approach and an appropriate place to park.

After the site is secured, one member of the team should enter the site carefully and make general observations as to what there is of interest there. Also, a few sketches of notable features and important details should be made. This person should be chosen on the basis of a broad general scientific knowledge. It will be his duty to coordinate the efforts of specialists who will do the detailed analyses.

In other cases, it may be he who does all of the on site investigation and who collects samples and artifacts for further laboratory investigation.

The next step is photography. The site should be photographed from as many angles as possible. Before anything is disturbed, it should be photographed. Records should be kept of the photographs, film, exposure, focus, direction, direction of the light source, etc. Ideally, one would photograph the scene in color, black&white, infrared and ultraviolet, and possibly in black & white using various filters. This is, however, rarely practical; a color negative film is suggested, since this can be made into prints or slides in black & white or color. Infrared might be a good second film to supplement the color negatives. Kodak publishes a good booklet on this use. A potential ufologist photographer should obtain some of these materials and go out and practice with them in order to gain an appreciation of their capabilities and limitations. He should also select and use camera equipment which is com-

... continued

If the reader finds this hard to believe, we suggest that a classic demonstration be undertaken. At some gathering of people, preferably twenty or so, arrange for an incident to occur. For example, someone is giving an address to the regular meeting of "The Friends of Project Blue Book", when an unkempt older man bursts through the door, grabs the speaker's notes, then dumps the waterglass on the speaker, yells "Sic semper tyrannis" and jumps out the window. As soon as order is restored, give everyone a sheet of paper and ask them to write down what happened. You might also appoint a committee of five or ten people and have them go to another room to discuss the incident before submitting their reports. The demonstration is frequently used by law schools and police academies and the results tend to be uniformly awful.

Witnesses should be interviewed as soon as possible. Techniques will be discussed further in a later installment. Probably the simplest method is to use a portable tape recorder, since it frees the investigator from dividing attention between listening and note taking.

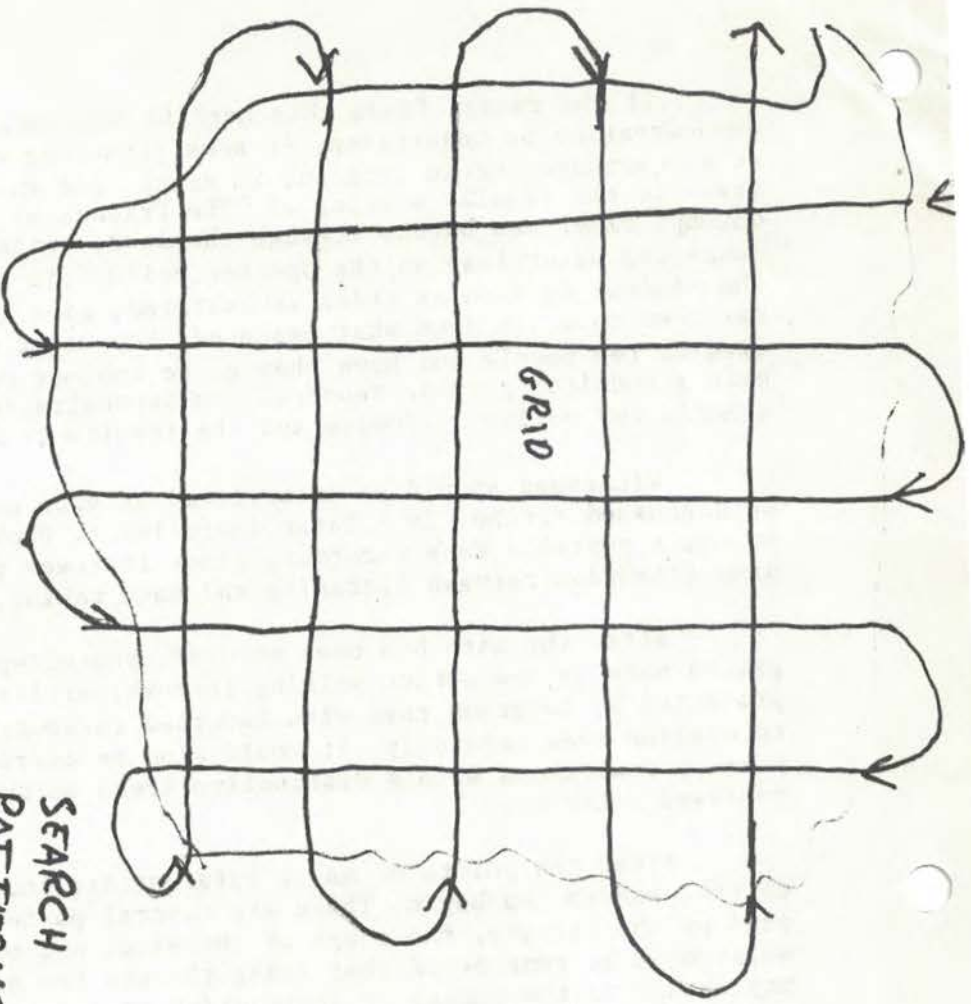
After the site has been secured, photographed and an initial investigation made by one person walking through, artifacts of interest should be protected by covering them with inverted cardboard boxes until there is time to examine them carefully. It would also be advisable if the first person ~~in~~ were to wear shoes with a distinctive tread so that his footprints won't be confused later on.

After the points of major interest are located and protected, the careful search can begin. There are several patterns for searching which depend on the terrain, the shape of the site, and other variable conditions. Also, it must be remembered that going through the site, no matter how carefully, may result in the damage or destruction of some evidence. The investigator should walk carefully looking where he puts his feet and should carefully search the ground directly in front of himself, moving in a predetermined search pattern. Obviously, he should not be eating, drinking or smoking while doing this.

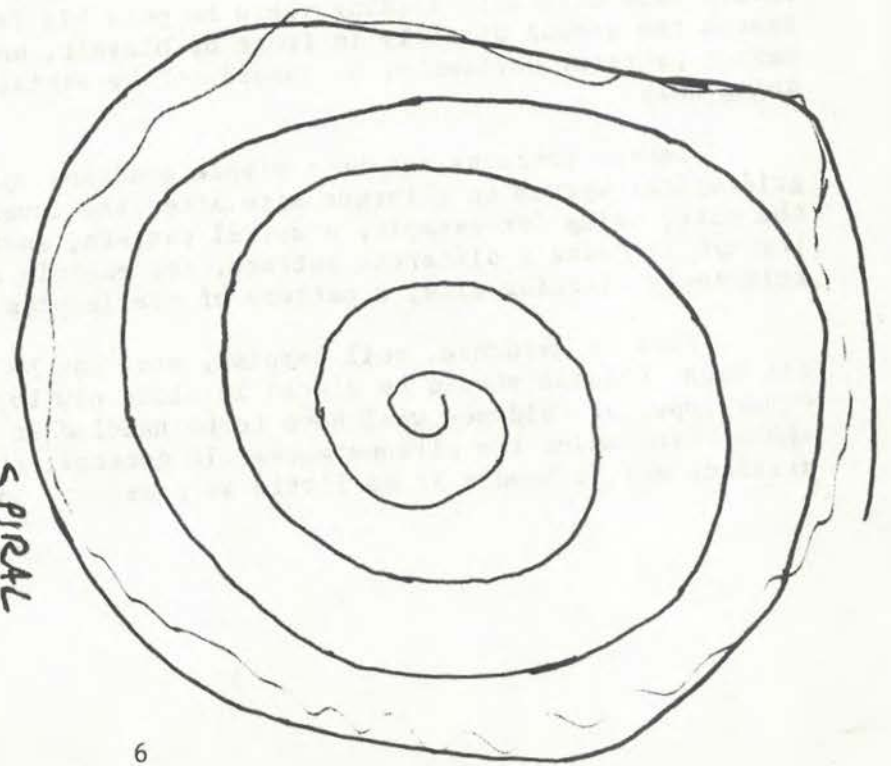
Search patterns can be a simple quadrant system on a small site, or a grid/spiral system on a larger site. After the investigator has gone through the site, using for example, a spiral pattern, another investigator should go through it using a different pattern, for example a grid, or in the case of a relatively circular site, a pattern of overlapping wedges.

Bits of evidence, soil samples, etc. can be placed in clean new plastic bags. Liquids should be placed in clean new bottles, such as canning jars. Other types of evidence will have to be handled in whatever manner seems most appropriate under the circumstances. In general, the idea is to protect the artifact and to handle it as little as possible. Some articles can be placed

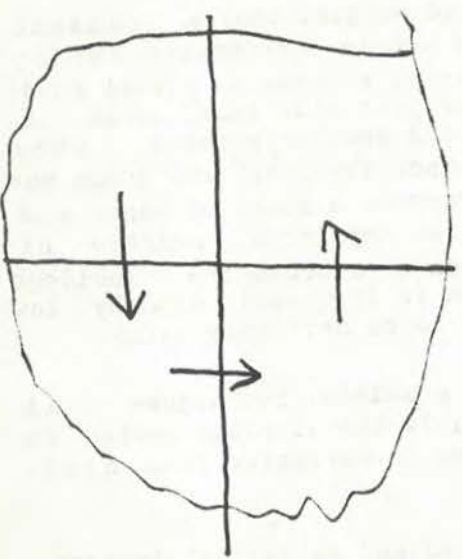
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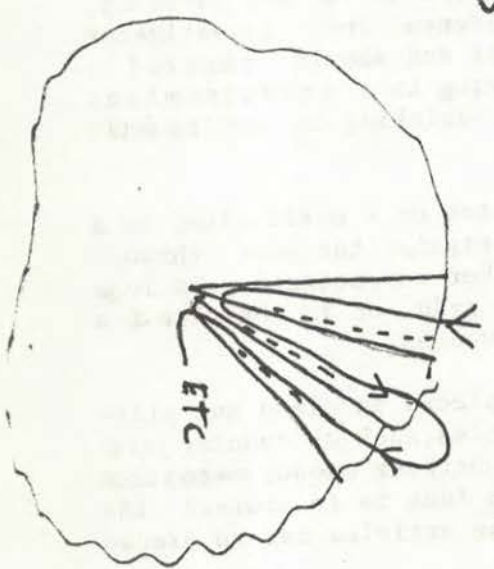
SEARCH PATTERNS



SPIRAL



QUADRANT



ETC

OVERLAPPING WEDGES



in a cardboard box quite safely, while others may require elaborate crating.

Preservation also presents problems. Frozen things should be kept frozen, dry things should be kept dry and so forth. However, it may not be practical to keep hot things hot or moist things moist, since changes can occur in these states.

When the investigative team goes out on the site, someone should inform the laboratory. This is usually not a problem since in the absence of formal labs for the purpose, ufologists usually have someone with access to a laboratory on their investigating staffs. In any case, the person who will do the laboratory examination should have the final say on the handling and preservation of the specimen.

After the site has been examined and the evidence collected, the team should spend a bit of time cleaning up any messes they may have made, including papers, cigarette butts and any other litter. Holes should be filled in and ropes removed to prevent accidents. Because of their unofficial status, ufologists must be acutely conscious of their public relations. A few disgruntled landowners could seriously hamper further investigations in a given area.

### TO BE CONTINUED

[In our next issue the Lynches will continue their in depth discussion of investigative techniques. The authors would appreciate feedback from the readers in the form of questions and comments and will try to respond to them. Address your correspondence to them in care of *UFO COMMENTARY*. Ed.]

### ERRATA \*\*\*\*\* ERRATA

In our last issue the following information was left out:

- p.2 footnote 1. Fast, Julius, *Body Language*, New York, Pocket Books, p.1.
- p.8 note 1. *Idaho Statesman*, August 11, 1972, p.1 ; *Salt Lake Tribune*, August 11, 1972, p.1.
- p.8 note 2. *Idaho Statesman*, August 11, 1972, p.1.
- p.8 note 3. Ibid.
- p.8 note 4. *Salt Lake Tribune*, August 11, 1972, p.1.

# SIGHTING ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

## UFO ACTIVITY JANUARY - MARCH 1973\*

During the first three months of 1973 we noticed the following:

The total number of sightings logged during this time came to 129. Of this number, the US accounted for 72.8 percent or ninety four sightings. On the basis of this data, it would appear that during this time the US experienced a flap condition.

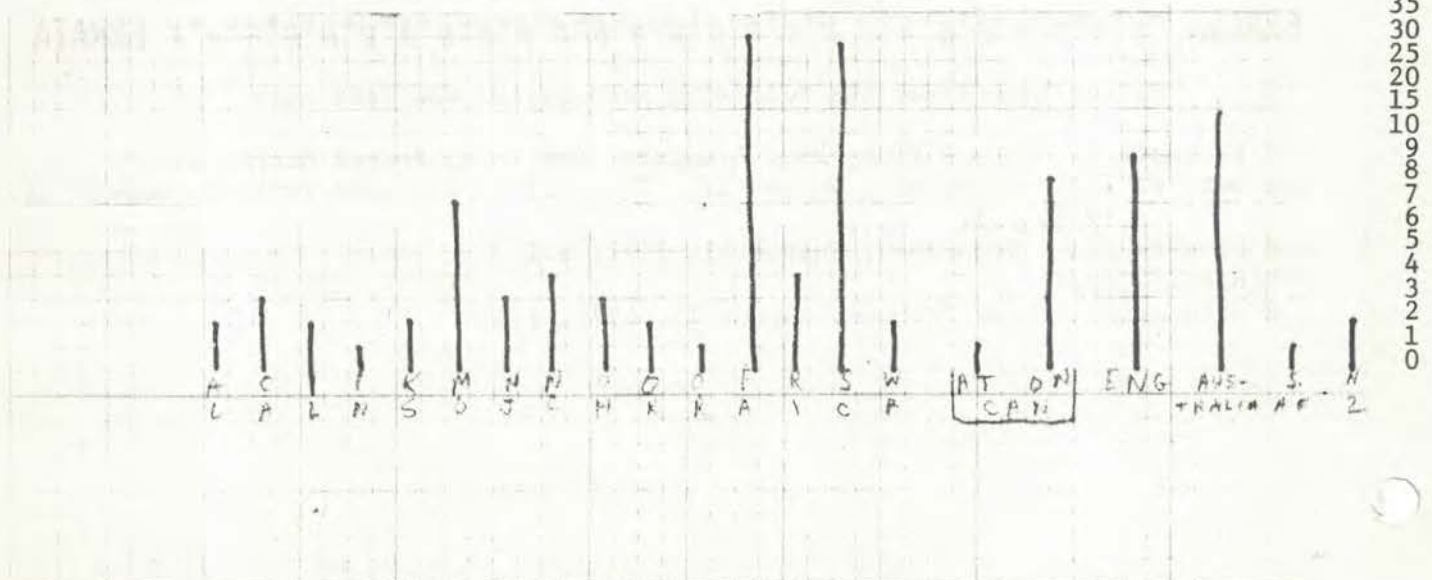
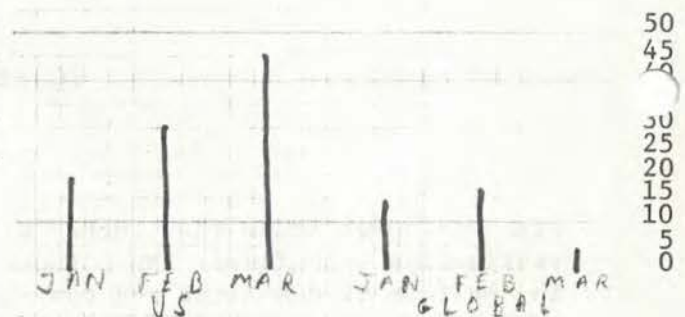
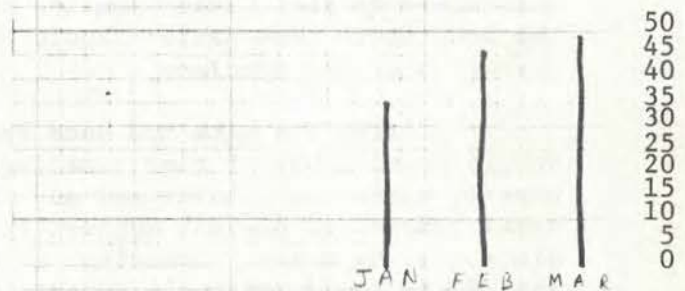
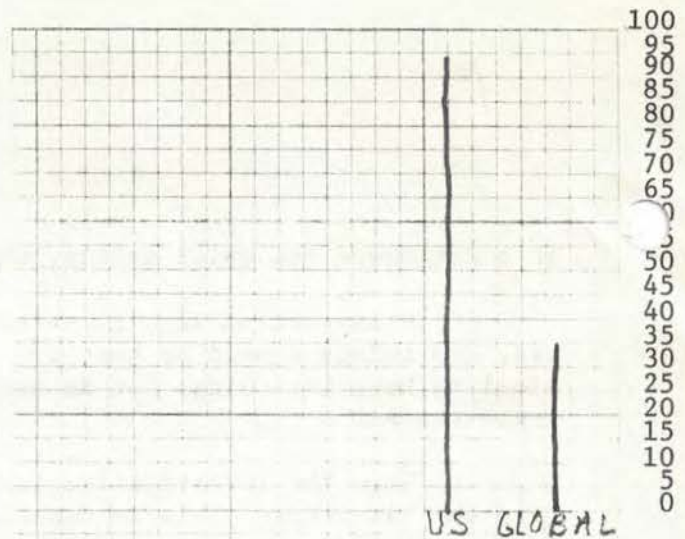
Of the ninety four US sightings fifty eight or 61.2 percent occurred in Pennsylvania and South Carolina indicating a heavy concentration in these areas. Other areas reporting activity are listed on the attached chart.

Of the thirty five foreign sightings fourteen (40 percent) happened in Australia, Canada and England had nine each.

Activity, regardless of location, started out at a level of thirty five in January, increased to forty six in February and peaked at forty eight in March.

Sightings in the US followed, perhaps even accounted for this trend; however, global sightings followed a different pattern. They started out at fourteen in January, increased to seventeen in February and then dropped off to four in March.

\* as reported in press clippings distributed through Dyke's clipping service.



# News In Capsule



"I know people are going to think I'm crazy" said Billy Gowan of Ellenboro, "but I don't care, I saw it." What Gowan, a freshman at East High, saw was well...er...ah...let him tell it:

"It was about 10:15 Monday morning, and I was on the phone calling Pat Nanney (Gowan is the East High reporter for radio station WBBO), and all of a sudden my radio started acting funny, squealing.



**Billy Gowan and "landing site"**  
ted to move closer to it, it took off."

"I glanced out the kitchen window and saw this thing in the air..."

And therein lies his tale.

"It was tilted slightly and it was coming down toward the ground. It hovered a bit, blowing snow up, and then I watched it land."

"It" was a red and gold thing "really weird, with some kind of orange colored...I guess it was flame... coming out of it. It was about a foot high and may be five inches in diameter, but it was squarish, not round. I couldn't really get a perfect description of it because I never got real close. About 50 feet is as close as I ever got."

Anyway, Gowan's conversation with Pat Nanney was cut extremely short. "I hung up the phone, grabbed my camera and ran outside. I stopped and took a picture of it sitting on the ground, but then as I star-

According to his wife, he woke her and asked her if she heard the noise. "I'm a heavy sleeper and I told him that I hadn't heard anything."

She said her husband got up to investigate and then called to her. "He couldn't believe what he was seeing and he wanted me to see it."

"It looked to be sitting on a hill in a field near the house, but it may have been hovering beyond the field.

"I can't say how big it was because it was hard to judge the distance, but it seemed to keep changing shape as it changed color. The shape change probably was caused by the change of the lights, I don't know."

She said the object was a pale red when she first saw it and then it slowly began changing to a pale green.

The couple and their eight year old son watched the object for about 20 minutes and at one point they saw something moving inside.

"It was a black figure...like a stick figure, only thicker, moving in the center. It was bending over and moving about. It was really scary. We were frightened and fascinated at the same time."

My husband said that the thing lit up so brightly just before I came out, that he thought it was going to explode."

Finally Mr. Donahower's fascination gave way to concern and he called the police.

According to Police Chief Norman Brunner, Heidleberg Township, Mr. Donahower was so shook up at the time, that he dialed the operator. "He said he couldn't think of who to call, he was so excited," Chief Brunner commented.

Mrs. Donahower said that just before the police arrived a pickup truck pulled away from a nearby dairy farm and the "lights started dimming" until the object "went out."

"We didn't see it take off or anything. It just faded out when the pickup truck turned off a dirt road.

"I was so doubtful of what we were seeing...I'm really pretty skeptical.. It was like a weird apparition. Our son was 'very quiet' during the whole thing and that's not like him."

When Chief Brunner arrived at the home around 2 a.m., he questioned the Donahower's separately.

"It went straight up for about 50 feet and then there was a sound like a shotgun firing, and then it took off real fast and flew away."

Whatever it was left a hole in the snow about three inches across and cleared to the ground beneath. "There are all these little black particles in the snow around it, and this greenish-looking stuff in the hole in the snow. It doesn't smell very good at all."

Gowan said he photographed the hole and then took a sample of the "greenish looking stuff", mixed with a little snow, and put it in a test tube, which he showed this reporter. It looked, well, green.

He said the thing appeared to be controlled "maybe by radio or something. I don't really know."

He offered no theories about what it might have been.

"I have never seen anything like it. I have seen some weird things in the sky on occasion, but never anything like this," he said.

All of which leaves Billy, the only eyewitness, with a roll of as yet undeveloped color film, hopefully containing some documentation of his experience, and a test tube full of green liquid, which he says he would like to have analyzed if he had any idea where to go to have it done.

And me? I just report...you can come to your own conclusions.

(Source: *This Week*, Forest City, NC 1/10/73)

## FAMILY SPOTS MANNED UFO IN FIELD

Skeptical about all the sightings of unidentified flying objects which have been reported over Berks County [PA] during the past week???

You say you don't believe in anything you can't touch, fold, or mutilate?

Me too.

But the group of persons in the county who have seen something in the night is growing and the most recent and most startling sighting comes from the Robeson area.

Clyde O. Donahower, Robeson, R.D. 1, was awakened around 1:30 a.m. today when he heard a rumbling noise followed by a screeching sound.

"All their stories were consistent," Chief Brunner said. I'm sure they saw something."

Police and Mr. Donahower walked into the plowed field where they thought the object might have landed but they could see no signs of disturbance to the ground.

While the early morning sighting in the Bunker Hill area is the first report of an object which may have landed, it is similar in its color description to several sightings which were reported Tuesday night in the Reading area and Kutztown.

Several Cherokee Ranch residents gathered around the telescope of Michael Emerich, 12, of 5107 Mohave Road, who had spotted an object in the sky south of Temple.

The boy reported that he watched the object for about an hour and that it changed color from white to green and then to various shades of red. He said the changing color pattern was repeated several times while he watched.

\* \* \*

Earlier in the evening several city residents reported seeing an object with green and red flashing lights "scooting" through the skies over the city.

\* \* \*

A group of students at Kutztown State College, about 30 minutes before the Donahower family was roused, reported that they were watching an object with red, white and green lights circling northeast of Kutztown.

They said they had been viewing the object through binoculars but had failed to gain permission to use the college's observation tower.

A spokesman at the traffic control tower of the Reading Municipal Airport suggested that the red and green lights were caused by airplanes. He said if they were caused by anything alien they would probably have a different electrical system.

Of course the control tower spokesman didn't touch, fold or mutilate the object.

Maybe, there's a scientific explanation, maybe there isn't. But the skies over Berks County are offering something which causes skeptics who see the objects to waver.

(Source: *Reading Eagle*, Reading, PA, 3/28/73)

# The Public Forum

## THE UFOLOGICAL POPULATION

John A. Keel

How many ufologists are active in the world today? This may seem a trivial and irrelevant question but it is important to those who publish magazines and books devoted to the subject, and can provide an important statistic for those journalists and scientists maintaining a peripheral interest.

For our purposes a ufologist is defined as a person who maintains a continuing interest in the subject and is willing to lay out his or her hard earned money for UFO publications, tickets to UFO conventions, etc. This "arm-chair" ufologist does not often have an opportunity to actually investigate a sighting first hand. They are mainly concerned with indulging in debate and correspondence.

The ufological population in the United States has always been extremely small. Until the 1966 flap, APRO maintained a membership of 800. Employees of NICAP in Washington, D.C. claimed a total membership of between 6,000 and 12,000 at the end of 1966. The NICAP figures are highly suspect.

After nine years of publication, Ray Palmer's magazine *Flying Saucers* had a total circulation of 14,597 in 1966. He had a nationwide newsstand distribution at the time. Newsstand sales amounted to about 11,402 copies per issue, hardly an impressive figure. Paid circulation (subscription) was 3,195.

In 1972, *Flying Saucers* had a total circulation of 2,861, including 600 newsstand sales and 2,261 subscribers, a decline of 80 per cent from the 1966 figure.

In 1971 a financial statement issued by NICAP indicated their actual membership was about 900. That same year, APRO claimed "450 investigators" on their rolls.\* It is probable that the combined membership of both organizations today totals less than 1,000. (In our 1968-69 poll of 250 ufologists we found that 40 percent of those who belonged to one organization also belonged to the other...so there is a large overlap.)

The 1960s saw an explosion of regional newsletters and magazines. Most of these were mimeographed and produced by teenagers or housewives. Their average circulation stood at 40 copies per issue, their average paid circulation 15 to 20. The majority of these publications faded away by 1969. Of the survivors, *Skylook*, a mimeographed effort produced by a woman in Missouri, had a circulation of 225 in 1971. By way of contrast, a newsletter aimed at the fans of the Wizard of OZ books has a circulation of 600.

Gray Barker of West Virginia has published a number of UFO books and

pamphlets over the years. Experience has taught him to restrict his press runs to 2,000 copies. He could rarely sell more than that, even though he advertised his ware in national newsstand periodicals.

The late Frank Edwards produced his book, *Flying Saucers--Serious Business*, in the spring of 1966 in six quick weeks. Lyle Stuart, an aggressive promotion minded company specializing in sex books, published it. Since it appeared at the height of the 1966 flap, it broke all records by selling about 80,000 copies in hardcover. John Fuller's two UFO books soon followed but did not do nearly as well.

The general public has a short attention span and the UFO market quickly became saturated. The Dell Publishing Company attempted to publish a slick quarterly UFO magazine in 1967 but abandoned the project after four issues. It had to sell 75,000 to 100,000 copies per issue to break even. The third and fourth issues fell far short of this mark.

The average paperback on any subject except sex -- the market for hardcore sex books is only about 20,000 -- sells from 60,000 to 100,000 copies. However, when Bantam optimistically printed 200,000 copies of the Colorado University UFO study in 1969, only about 40,000 copies were sold. Some of the other UFO paperbacks published in 1969-1970 sold even less.

Interestingly, nearly every other major country in the world, Japan, Sweden, Spain, England, France, etc., manages to support at least one well edited, professionally printed UFO magazine. The United States has only Palmer's *Flying Saucers* and it is cursed by very uneven quality and a steadily shrinking circulation. The best magazine now available in North America is *Canadian UFO Report* which is published by a journalist named John Magor, has some newsstand distribution, and is professionally printed. No circulation figures are available for it.

Obviously, the total ufological population of the U.S. is very small, fewer than 3,000 people at the present time. The quality of American research has been marred by excessive crankism, rampant egoism, paranoid causes, and a generally low level both psychologically and educationally. The only major contributions to the subject in this country have been made by Fortean (e.g. Sanderson, Gaddis, Steiger) rather than ufologists.

In recent years, UFO conventions have attracted fewer and fewer people. The contactee-oriented annual convention at Giant Rock, California, which has been running successfully since the early 1950s, may not be held this year at all. Meanwhile, conventions for such fringe movements such as science fiction, rock hounding, etc. continue to draw huge crowds. Even comic book collectors



far outnumber ufologists these days.

All of this indicates that ufology is a dying movement in the United States. This is partly due to the fact that the field has always been essentially leaderless, and the rantings of the extremists have driven away the sinner persons attracted to the subjects.

Science fiction fandom, like ufology, is populated largely by teenagers. But sci-fi "fanzines" are far more literate and much better designed than ufozines. Many of today's leading science fiction writers began as fans. On the other hand, the UFO fandom of the 1950s and 1960s failed entirely to produce any significant new professional writers. Only three of the teenaged enthusiasts of the 60s have gone on to write for national magazines, Jerome Clark, Hayden Hewes and Timothy Green Beckley. Beckley has moved into witchcraft and the occult. Hewes has shown an obvious penchant for self promotion and self aggrandizement, often at the expense of accuracy and logic. Clark is the only writer of real promise from that period.

When the American ufological movement is viewed in retrospect with cold objectivity it appears to have no future. If the current trends continue, Palmer's magazine may be forced to fold by the end of 1974. England's *Flying Saucer Review* now dominates the field, both in quality and circulation.

It is erroneous to blame the largely ignored Condon report for the demise of ufology in the US. Ufology did not die as a result of the Air Force's negative stance. It committed suicide.

## SPACEVIEW MAGAZINE

If you are fascinated by Flying Saucer Topics, Astrology, ESP, then Spaceview is meant for you! An independent magazine specializing in world UFO news and the occult subjects. Published bi-monthly, SPACEVIEW is professionally printed, with justified columns, and bound in an attractive art paper cover. Six issues for only \$2.50. Subscribe and receive a FREE bonus - a color photo of an authentic UFO plus a FREE back issue of SPACEVIEW. For your subscription, write:

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\* Mr. Keel states in his article that in 1971 APRO had "...450 investigators' on their rolls." giving the impression that this is the total membership of the organization. This is an error. Mr. Keel fails to distinguish between the various kinds of affiliation that APRO has (viz. Staff, Consultants, Representatives, Investigators and Members). A person can be a member without being an investigator, or an investigator without being a consultant or representative etc.

In July 1972 I visited APRO Headquarters in Tucson for a week. During this time I had numerous talks with the headquarters staff. While there I also had the opportunity to look through the membership files. As a result of this personal investigation, I can assure both Mr. Keel and the readership that while APRO does have about "450 investigators" the total membership is about 3000.  
Ed.

# THE WORLD SIGHTING INDEX

## GLOBAL CASES

021	1965	08	04	Chena	312	007
021	1967	02	24	Riachuelo	059	003
					340	007
021	1967	03	01	Valparaiso	059	003
021	1967	06	18	Mulluri	061	003
023	1952	08	??	Bogota	038	001
023	1958	05	02	Bogota	271	007
031	1951	06	19	Sonderborg	196	007
031	1953	09	12	Brovst	204	007
						020
031	1957	11	22	Gesten	267	007
031	1959	04	15	Svendborg	275	007
034	1958	11	23	Cojutepeque	273	007
036	1967	06	20	Suomussalmi	346	007
037	1921	??	??	Marseilles	188	007
037	1949	02	17	????????????????	193	007
037	1952	06	15	Magneville	198	007
037	1952	10	15	Le Vigan	201	007
					062	008
037	1952	10	27	Marignane Airport	201	007
					006	014
037	1952	11	21	Belle-Ile	201+	007
					056	014
037	1953	08	16	Tours	203	007
					141	008
037	1953	09	04	Tonnerre	204	007
037	1954	01	04	Marignane	205	007
						020
037	1954	08	23	Lugrin, nr Thonon	088+	002
					208	007
					129	014
037	1954	08	23	Varennes, nr Diges	207+	007
037	1954	09	07	Harponville	208+	007
					035	026
037	1954	09	10	Mourieras	089	002
					209	007
					040	026
037	1954	09	10	Valenciennes, nr Quaroble	089+	002
					209	007
					044	026
037	1954	09	15	Feyzin	210	007
					049	026
037	1954	09	17	nr Cenon	091	002
					210	007
					058	026

NORTH AMERICAN CASES

USA	GA	1964	07	14	Tallulah Falls	301	007
USA	GA	1967	10	22	Newnan	171+	003
USA	GA	1967	10	08	Mableton	177	003
USA	GA	1967	10	20	nr Milledgeville	170+	003
USA	ID	1947	07	04	Emmet	030+	004
						032	006
USA	ID	1947	08	13	Twin Falls, Snake River Canyon	192	007
USA	ID	1966	01	29	Rexburg	322	007
USA	ID	1967	11	03	Ririe	178	003
						354	007
USA	IL	1897	04	11	Rogers Park	052	005
USA	IL	1897	04	12	Girard, nr Green Ridge	182	007
USA	IL	1897	04	12	Nilwood	182	007
						012	008
USA	IL	1897	04	15	Springfield	183	007
USA	IL	1897	04	16	Downs Township	183+	007
USA	IL	1944	08	Lt	Mattoon	190	007
USA	IL	1946	03	14	nr Havana	026+	004
USA	IL	1947	06	Lt	Chicago	031	006
USA	IL	1952	07	12	Chicago	203	006
USA	IL	1954	07	02	nr Kankakee	221+	004
USA	IL	1955	03	02	Huntley	249	007
USA	IL	1957	11	04	Elmwood Park	159	004
						262	007
						240	026
USA	IL	1963	08	07	Centralia	293	007
USA	IL	1963	08	08	Mt. Vernon	293	007
USA	IL	1964	06	08	Lawrenceville	300	007
USA	IL	1966	02	26	Hanna City	323	007
USA	IL	1966	10	14	Newton	337	007
USA	IL	1967	01	26	Coffeen	339	007
USA	IL	1967	03	09	Moline	274+	004
USA	IN	1897	04	14	Gas City	182	007
USA	IN	1904	??	??	Rolling Prairie	186	007
						164	021
USA	IN	1948	07	29	Indianapolis	192	007
USA	IN	1950	04	??	????????????????????	036+	004
USA	IN	1950	04	08	Kokomo	194	007
USA	IN	1951	10	09	Terre Haute	150+	006
USA	IN	1954	05	24	nr Richmond	069+	005
USA	IN	1957	10	15	Covington	260	007
USA	IN	1957	11	05	New Castle	262	007
						245	026
USA	IN	1961	05	03	Union Mills	281	007
						139	017
						147	017

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR UFO RESEARCH

Peter Rogerson

During the twenty five years in which the UFO phenomenon has been in the arena of public and scientific debate there seems to have been little concerted effort to determine precisely what UFO researchers should be doing. Too often ufologists seem to have been more interested in propounding dotty pseudo-sciences than in investigating the phenomenon objectively.

What, then, should be done? Here are some suggestions for discussion:

1. There should be a major effort to document and re-investigate all Type I reports located in both published and unpublished sources, or known through private information. Every effort should be made to determine the precise date and geographical location of each report. Regular catalogues should be published. These should be brief specific lists in geographical, chronological and other orders, backed up by a catalogue of report abstracts in strict chronological order. Continuation catalogues should be published annually, with cumulations every five years.

2. "Contact" reports, "MIB" reports and reports involving psychological, physiological and parapsychological phenomena should be investigated by trained personnel or laymen of proven reliability under the direction of specialists, and NOT by untrained or impressionable people.

3. There should be a major co-operative effort at a systematic search for pre-1947 "waves" involving, if possible, full scrutiny of national and local newspapers, and scientific and popular magazines, starting with flap periods, then from other periods. The possibility of obtaining information from elderly persons could be considered. Reports should be published in abstract form, with fuller accounts of selected reports, and notes on the social, religious, political and scientific background of the reports. Otherwise, reports should be published without comment.

4. There should be a continuing effort to examine, and to place into context, the UFO phenomenon as a source of mythological data, and as an aspect of folk-lore. The investigation of certain "constants" in mythical, religious and folkloric traditions should be encouraged.

5. There should be an effort made to conduct sociological and psychological study of the modern UFO cults, such as that at Warminster.

6. There should be a sociological and historical study of the social and technological impact of the UFO phenomenon. As an example, research is being conducted into the possibility that the airship wave of 1913 may have had some effect on the course of the First World War.

7. The local groups, unless they are conducting valid research in which

the majority of the membership is involved, should dissolve themselves. Their active members should meet informally to discuss reports, plan investigations and conduct research.

8. The national organizations should cease to act as bodies with corporate opinions, planning research etc., and become documentation centers, co-ordinating research, holding central catalogues and files, and library facilities. They should organize symposia and provide resources for publication of research work.

9. There should be a private international co-ordinating body, to which both national bodies and individuals would be affiliated. This body would provide both international co-ordination of documentation and research, and a translation service. It is important that neither the national nor international bodies should hold corporate opinions or engage in corporate activities.

10. There is need for the creation of high quality bibliographical services in the field of ufology. These should include a bibliography of all UFO style reports in the press, and non-ufological books and journals, a bibliography of UFO monographs published to date, an index of important articles in the ufological and lay press, and as complete a list as possible of ufological journals.

11. The creation of a machine readable general catalogue of UFO reports incorporating all existing catalogues, on an international scale, should be undertaken.

12. The publication of this catalogue, with the addition of legible, standardized abstracts of the reports in the form of a continuous, duplicated publication should facilitate the further investigation of reports.

13. There should be at least one international scientific journal devoted to ufology, aimed exclusively at the scientific community and serious research worker, without editorial comment. The journal should aim to serve as a platform for all serious workers, away from the attitude of the cultists. The ultimate aim should be to publish this journal simultaneously in several major languages.

14. The publication of national journals of a similar nature, either modifications of existing journals (e.g. *Phenomenes Spatiaux*, *FSR*) or new ventures should be encouraged, along with the publication of local "report" journals.

15. There should be rapid and in-depth investigation of all cases involving alleged physical evidence, landing sites and photographs by appropriately

qualified experts. In the case of photographs, publication should be delayed until there is good evidence of "high strangeness", and attempts at duplication have failed.

16. Efforts should be made to recover material in official files, accepting any conditions laid down, especially recognizing that such material may be made available only to reputable scientists.

17. It should be recognized that the only legitimate activity of UFO research is the scientific investigation of UFO reports and phenomena which may generate them. Such investigations should be impartial, unbiased and covering all aspects of the phenomenon. Investigations which set out to demonstrate that the reports are generated by mirages, alcoholic poisoning, space ships or ghosts do not fall into the definition of research.

18. Every effort should be made to channel the interest of newcomers to the subject along scientific lines, emphasizing that ufology involves much more than standing on hilltops staring at the sky, and like much science involves hard work.

19. Take steps to counter the damage caused by the activities of certain sensationalists, particularly the gentlemen whose lunacies provide much sport to the popular press.

20. Recognize that the subject will only become respectable to the scientific community if research and speculation are conducted in a scientific manner; and that speculation is limited to scientifically valid notions. One must accept that this speculation will be ultimately futile if the phenomena are not comprehensible in terms of 20th century science. The tendency of writers to throw scientific restraints away and invent ever more fantastic pseudo-scientific cosmoeses can only be deplored.

The majority of these proposals are within reach, as the foundations exist already. The major stumbling block is undoubtedly certain vested interests in the UFO groups, and sheer apathy. For example, the attempt at proposal ten by John Rimmer and Conrad Hunter failed because no one was interested.

At present this writer is engaged upon project one, the compilation of a card catalogue of Type I reports, at present containing just under 1900 items and still slowly growing. I urge researchers engaged upon similar activities to contact me\*. I would also request readers to send details of any unpublished or ill-published reports, e.g. personal information or from short lived journals.

\* Peter Rogerson, 8 Braddon Ave., Urmston, Manchester, M31 1UE, England

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

*UFO COMMENTARY*, published quarterly in March, June, September and December, is a scholarly journal devoted to unidentified flying objects.

As a matter of policy, we intend to make *UFO COMMENTARY* a quality journal of serious research. We will not be dogmatic or narrow minded and will consider all aspects of the UFO problem. If we -- and ufologists in general -- are to advance the frontiers of ufological knowledge, it is imperative that we approach our subject in the spirit of inquiry and critical thought. Let us never fall in to the category described by semanticist Alfred Korzybski:

Those who copy animals *must* behave as dogmatists, categorists, absolutists, 'know alls'; they must become fanatical, intolerant; when they meet others of their kind, a fight must follow. They do not want to think. They are not interested in investigating, for why should they? They "know it all," which is all there is to know about it. They will persecute others who [do] think. For them thinking and science are crimes, or, at best an unnecessary waste of time; and, if forced to think, it is a serious pain to them. They take everything for granted....

Encouraging free and unfettered inquiry does not, however, give one license to practice muddled thinking, slipshod investigation or poor documentation. For instance, there will be no articles along the lines of "I Was Seduced by a Venusian Transvestite" -- unless the author is able to back it up and is willing to submit to the most rigorous scrutiny.

*UFO COMMENTARY* is non-profit. Our sole purpose is to give the ufological community a medium for in-depth reporting of UFO cases and other pertinent material. From time to time, we will also present useful catalogs and the results of original research by serious students of the subject.

This then is a brief summary of the philosophy behind *UFO COMMENTARY*. Won't you join us each issue as we probe deeper into the 20th century's most intriguing enigma?

Allen Berry

UFO COMMENTARY

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What would you like more of? \_\_\_\_\_

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